

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed October 20, 2005. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 14, 15, 18, 19 and 21 remain pending. In particular, Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 13 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicant has canceled claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 13 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the subject matter of the canceled claims in a continuing application, if Applicant so chooses, and does not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9, 13 – 15, 18, 19 and 21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Mazzagatte*. With respect to claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 9 and 13, Applicant has canceled these claims and respectfully asserts that the rejection as to these claims has been rendered moot. With respect to the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

In this regard, the Office Action indicates that with respect to independent claim 14, *Mazzagatte* discloses “a sender module for transmitting said cipher text through said network to a preselected recipient as an attachment to an email message.” Specifically, the Office Action indicates that column 6, lines 25 - 31 teaches these features. However, that portion of *Mazzagatte* discloses:

Lastly, e-mail program 359 is a typical e-mail program for enabling printer 50 to receive e-mail messages from network 100. ***Such e-mail messages may contain print job-related information, as discussed in more detail below.*** (*Mazzagatte* at column 6, lines 25 - 31). (Emphasis added).

The detailed discussion is reproduced in pertinent part below. In particular,

Mazzagatte discloses:

As seen in FIG. 5, in step S501 ***the sender submits the print job along with unique identification information***, sometimes called a distinguished name, identifying the person who is the intended recipient. This information is generally contained in a digital certificate. ***The identification information links the print job to the intended recipient, so that only the intended recipient is able to print the print job. More specifically, identification information such as the intended recipient's first name, last name, country, locality (city), organization, organization unit, or other information that is unique to him is linked to the print job.***

This information may be obtained and linked to the print job by various methods. For example, the sender could insert a smart-card into a smart-card reader located at the sending node, such as smart-card reader 15 connected to computer 10 as seen in FIG. 1. The smart-card could contain the recipient's unique identification information in digital form which is supplied to the computer through smart-card interface 265. ***Alternatively, the information may be obtained from a digital certificate, obtained via a Public Key Infrastructure, over the internet, by e-mail or some other means.*** In this case, the information could be downloaded to computer 10 over the internet to be subsequently submitted with the print job.

(*Mazzagatte* at column 8, lines 19 - 43). (Emphasis added).

Notably, however, the use of email referred to in the above passage is only for providing the unique identification information, and not cipher text corresponding to a data stream that was converted by an encryption module.

Perhaps even more notable is the following disclosure of *Mazzagatte*, namely, “Lastly, email program 359 is a typical e-mail program for enabling printer 50 to receive e-mail messages from network 100.” (*Mazzagatte* at column 86, lines 25 - 27). Thus, in addition to only disclosing the use of email for receipt of identification information, which does not correspond to cipher text as recited in claim 14, *Mazzagatte* only discloses an ability to receive email at the printer 50. In contrast, Applicant’s claim 14 recites “transmitting said cipher text through said network to a preselected recipient as an attachment to an email message.” Such functionality is not contemplated by *Mazzagatte*.

In this regard, claim 14 recites:

With respect to claim 14, that claim recites:

14. A printing system comprising:
a first peripheral device comprising:
a processor for receiving ***a data stream*** through a network;
an encryption module for converting ***said data stream from plain text to cipher text;***
memory for storing the cipher text until access to said cipher text by a user is authorized;
a printing mechanism for printing a hardcopy document corresponding to the cipher text; and
a sender module for transmitting said cipher text through said network to a preselected recipient as an attachment to an email message.

(Emphasis added).

Applicants respectfully assert that *Mazzagatte* is legally deficient for the purpose of anticipating claim 14. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that *Mazzagatte* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 14. Notably, it appears that Applicant's use of antecedent basis of the terms "data streams" and "cipher text" may not have considered. That is, in claim 14 the "cipher text" corresponds to the "data stream" that was converted by the encryption module. Additionally, the "cipher text" is transmitter as an attachment to an email. As mentioned above, *Mazzagatte* is not involved with transmitting cipher text in such a manner, particularly since *Mazzagatte* clearly only discloses the use of email for receiving information. Therefore, Applicant respectfully asserts that claim 14 is in condition for allowance.

Since claims 15, 18, 19 and 21 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 14, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

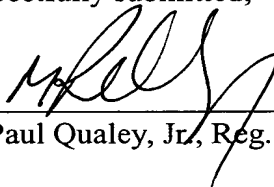
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully submits that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.


Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 12/14/05.



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